

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 L-03 H-02 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 RSR-01 /170 W

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R 120951 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3073

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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UNCLAS TOKYO 4475

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, US, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE PRESS REACTION TO U. S. TRADE BILL

SUMMARY. ALL MAJOR JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS OF APRIL 12 CARRIED EDITORIAL COMMENT ON U. S. TRADE BILL. RECURRING THEME OF VIRTUALLY ALL COMMENT WAS THAT WHILE BILL HAS QUOTE STRONG PROTECTIONIST COLORING UNQTE WHICH MUST BE CAUSE FOR SOME ANXIETY IN JAPAN, IT ALSO CONTAINS PROVISIONS FOR LIBERALIZING WORLD TRADE, WHICH JAPAN WELCOMES. NEARLY ALL EDITORS ALSO THOUGHT GOJ SHOULD EXPAND OWN EFFORTS TOWARDS TRADE LIBERALIZATION TO AVOID GIVING U. S. QUOTE EXCUSE UNQUOTE FOR TAKING PROTECTIONIST MEASURES. END SUMMARY.

1. ALL PAPAPERS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER IMPLICATIONS FOR JAPAN OF TRADE BILL PROVISIONS GIVING PRESIDENT AUTHORITY TO TAKE RETALIATORY TRADE ACTIONS AGAINST SPECIFIC COUNTRIES, EVEN (IN OPINION OF SOME EDITORS) IN CONTRAVENTION OF GATT. YOMIURI HOPED CONGRESS WOULD NOT INCREASE QTE PROTECTIONIST COLORING UNQTE OF BILL AND THAT PRESIDENT WOULD NOT IN-
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VOKE PROTECTIONIST MEASURES UNTIL INTERNATIONAL AGREE-
MENT REACHED ON SUCH QTE SAFEGUARD UNQTE MEASURES.
NIHON KEIZAI THOUGHT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR U. S. TO
QTE RESIST TEMPTATION OF PROTECTIONISM UNQTE IF NEW
INTERNATIONAL ROUND OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS FAILS TO PRO-
DUCE RESULTS SATISFACTORY TO U. S. SANKEI EXPRESSED CON-
CERN THAT ENACTMENT OF BILL MIGHT CAUSE QTE CHAIN
REACTION UNQTE OF RETALIATORY MEASURES BY OTHER
COUNTRIES.

2. MOST EDITORS INJECTED BALANCE BY COMMENTING FAVORABLY
ON TRADE LIBERALIZING FEATURES OF BILL. MAINICHI THOUGHT
BILL CLEARLY REFLECTED DESIRE ON NIXON ADMINISTRATION
TO TAKE LEAD IN ESTABLISHING QTE NEW ORDER UNQTE FOR
WORLD TRADE AND CALLED ON GOJ TO REDOUBLE OWN EFFORTS
FOR ESTABLISHING QTE OPEN ECONOMIC STRUCTURE UNQTE.
ASAHI ALSO CARRIED BALANCED EDITORIAL WELCOMING
BILL'S TARIFF REDUCTION AUTHORITY AND PROVISION FOR
EXTENDING PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS TO LDCS. WHILE
NOTING THAT QTE SAFEGUARD UNQTE PROVISIONS MUST BE
VIEWED WITH CONSIDERABLE CAUTION BY JAPAN, EDITORS
THOUGHT ADMINISTRATION HAD FELT COMPELLED TO INCLUDE THEM
SINCE CONGRESS PROBABLY WOULD NOT ENACT ANY TRADE LAW
WITHOUT SUCH PROVISIONS. IT ALSO OBSERVED THAT
RETALIATORY POWERS WERE DISCRETIONARY AND WOULD NOT
NECESSARILY QTE TIE IN IMMEDIATELY TO IMPLEMENTATION
UNQTE.
INGERSOLL

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